

West Virginia Studies Resource Development

Title of Lesson: 3D WV
Grade level: 8th Grade
Summary: Our state is best known for its beautiful natural features and it is always important for students to be able to know where places are and visualize them as we study the history of our great state. Geography is the foundation and to create that foundation students need to know the locations of cities, rivers, landforms and how we divide our state geographically.
WV CCR Social Studies Standards: 8.13 Label the four major physical geographic regions, major rivers, landforms, natural/man-made borders, points of interest and bordering states on selected maps 8.14 Identify the 55 counties and major cities of WV on a map and explain the reason for the development of the major cities in their respective locations
Students will know and understand (content) (Essential Questions): What are the 4 geographic regions? Where are the major rivers in WV? What major landforms stand out in our state? What are the major cities and why are they in their respective locations?
Students will be able to do (skills): Design a topographical (3D) map incorporating the 4 regions, major rivers, major landforms and 5 major cities
Materials & Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Textbook● Computer● Internet● Topographical map resources - could be playdough, cardboard, string, colored pencils, markers, food items, glitter glue (possibilities are endless)
Learning Plan: Intro: WV is known for its natural beauty. When you think of the geography of WV - what stands out to you first? Students might suggest a river, a tourist attraction, a mountain, a place they have visited like Blackwater Falls. Generate discussion and get them thinking about all the natural beauty of WV.

Activity: Their job is going to be to create a topographical (3D) map using whatever resources they choose (in groups of 3). They will need to incorporate:

- The 4 geographic regions (showing the relative differences between the elevation of the areas)
- the major rivers (Monongahela, Potomac, New, Kanawha, Little Kanawha, Ohio, Guyandotte, Greenbrier)
- 3 major natural wonders or landforms
- 5 major cities

Students may use their maps in their book for help and may also research on the internet. They may also get creative with their 3D maps using classroom supplies, art supplies, food supplies or whatever they so choose

Students will present their maps and discuss the locations of the geographic features. This will also allow for expansion of the conversation - discussing questions as to why did these major cities evolve there? What have these geographic features done for WV? How did we distinguish or divide into 4 geographic regions?

Put maps on display in the classroom or hallway for the school to see

Checking for Understanding:

3D topographical map
discussion

Accommodations:

Designated partners
Conferencing to suggest design ideas
Lessening requirements of design
Expansion: showing other features of WV